

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and for indicating that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Drawings:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on February 28, 2002 have been approved.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant also thanks the Examiner initialing and returning the PTO Form PTO/SB/08 A & B, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 2, 8 and 9 are objected to, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-10 are all the claims that have been examined in the application, and currently claims 1, 3-7 and 10 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection – Claims 1 and 3:

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,307,966 to Inaba et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant notes that Inaba discloses a strap **3** which is used for the carrying of a device **1**. The ends of the strap **3** are secured by the end fastener **6**, and where a stopper **5** is used to break the strap into two loops **L1** and **L2**. *See* Figure 1, and accompanying discussions. It is also noted that Inaba discloses that the respective sizes of the loops **L1** and **L2** can be adjusted. However, Applicant submits that Inaba fails to disclose, teach or suggest the present invention, and is no more relevant than the prior art.

Applicant notes that in the present invention, a member on the loop creates a “closed loop” where the member has a “first retaining means [which retain] a portion of the closed loop, so as to form a double loop.” *See* claim 1. Applicant submits that this is in no way disclosed in Inaba. Applicant notes that, in Inaba, the stopper **5** does not have a “first retaining means” which retains of portion of either of the loops **L1** or **L2** so as create a second closed loop. In Inaba, the stopper **5** is moved along the strap **3** to adjust the size of the loops. There is no disclosure of doubling one of the loops onto the stopper **5** to reduce the size of one of the loops.

Applicant notes that because Inaba does not “double-up” one of the loops, as does the present invention, it fails to attain the advantages of the present invention. Applicant specifically notes Figures 5(a) and 5(b) of Inaba. In these figures, the strap **3** is shown such that the loop **L1**, is made very small to allow the device **1** to be carried by hand. However, in this configuration the loop **L2** is made very large, and as such can become entangled or snag another object. In the present invention, this is avoided by creating a double loop from one of the closed loops. Applicant submits that this is not disclosed, in any way, in Inaba.

There is no disclosure in Inaba, or any of the other prior art references, of having one of the loops L1 or L2 retained by the stopper 5 so as to create a double loop, and Applicant submits that the mere creation of loops L1 and L2 from the strap 3 by the stopper 5 is insufficient to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

As Inaba fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicant submits that Inaba fails to anticipate the present invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1. further, as claim 3 depends on claim 1, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependency.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Claims 4-7:

Claims 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba in view of the Jerrold reference. However, since claims 4-7 depend on claim 1, and because Jerrold fails to cure the deficient teachings of claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 4-7 are allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Claim 10:

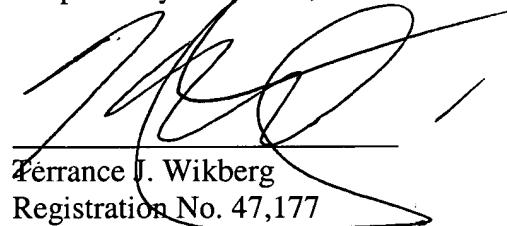
Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba in view of the Teurlings reference. However, since claim 10 depends on claim 1, and because Teurlings fails to cure the deficient teachings of claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 10 is allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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